

# Calverley Urban District Council.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

In presenting you with the ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT for the year 1895, I have much pleasure in congratulating you on the continued healthiness of the district, and on the generally satisfactory character of my report.

### Mortality—

During the year 38 deaths have been registered, 20 being males and 18 females. On an estimated population of 2620 this yields an annual death-rate of 14.5 per 1000, comparing favourably with any rate of the last five years, and being much below the average of those years. A closer inspection of the causes of death reveals the fact that five deaths were due to diseases of the respiratory organs, giving a respiratory death-rate of 3 per 1000. This, in such an exposed district as ours, may be considered very satisfactory. Three deaths have been caused by each of the following disorders:—viz., heart disease and cancer—the latter appearing with a much greater frequency than it used to do. Phthisis, general tuberculosis, tubercular peritonitis, are answerable for two deaths each, making a total of six deaths from tubercular diseases. This is rather higher than our usual average from this cause. Bright's disease, gastro-enteritis, apoplexy, ricketts, convulsions, and old age caused two deaths each. Amongst the diseases causing one death only special mention need be made of typhoid fever. The mean average age at death was 44.4 years, or, excluding the deaths of infants, 52.4 years. Two deaths of non-residents occurred in the hospital, one from scarlet and one from typhoid fever. Two other deaths of non-residents were caused by accidents.

### Infant Mortality—

In contrast to last year this rate is very high. Eight infants have died during the year, yielding an annual rate of 210 per 1000 births. This is much higher than the average for the whole country. No special cause of mortality is to be noted amongst them, and the abnormally high rate is only temporary, and has no special signification.

### Zymotic Disease—

The Zymotic death-rate is much lower than last year, and the incidence of infectious disease has been much less frequent and formidable. Nineteen cases of infectious disease have been notified to me during the year, viz., 12 cases of typhoid fever, three of erysipelas, two of scarlet fever, one of diphtheria, and one of puerperal fever. Except the typhoid fever, all were isolated cases and gave rise to no extension of disease. The scarlet fever and diphtheria were distinctly imported from the surrounding district, as were also a few cases of measles, which did not become epidemic. Respecting the typhoid cases, the same cannot be said. The first case came to my notice on March 4th, in the Clover Greaves district, and was the only one that proved fatal. The house was not in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and was reported to you at the time. The next cases were notified to me from the same district on the following dates:—April 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 27th, May 1st, 6th, 8th. In almost all these cases no fault could be found with the drains; the milk supply was various, the water-supply also was not identical, and the privy accommodation was separate. No common acting cause was operative, and it was difficult to account for this localised epidemic. In response to my advice the sewers of the district were flushed, the ash-pits emptied, and a ventilating shaft put into the sewer at the head of the district affected. Whether in consequence of this, or as a mere coincidence, I cannot say, but subsequent to this action the epidemic died out. In September two more very mild cases were reported from the same district, but no further epidemic took place, and no sufficient cause could be assigned for these two cases. In August two cases of typhoid fever were reported in the Rodley district. They both occurred in the same house. The sanitary arrangements of this house were extremely faulty, and were reported to you at the time.—In spite of this somewhat quieting outbreak, I am happy to state that only one fatality occurred. This was the only death from zymotic disease, and we have thus a zymotic death-rate of only .38 per 1000. This is extremely satisfactory. On the whole, seeing that so many forms of infectious disease invaded the district at various periods, I think we may consider ourselves fortunate in having escaped any more serious epidemics. This comparative immunity from such outbreaks I consider is greatly due to the timely notification of these diseases under the Act. In this connection I may append for your perusal the table of admissions to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Calverley Moor.

	SCARLET FEVER.		TYPHOID FEVER.		DIPHTHERIA.		TOTAL.	
	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.
CALVERLEY			3				3	
ECCLESHILL	3	1			9		12	1
IDLE ...	7		4				11	
FARSLEY ...	1		4				5	
PUDSEY ...	3		7	1			10	1
TOTAL ...	14	1	18	1	9		41	2

You will see from the above that we had the smallest number of admissions, and no fatality. You will also observe that the percentage of deaths in the hospital from all causes is less than 5 per cent. of the admissions—a distinctly satisfactory and re-assuring result.

Fifty-nine births were registered,—33 males and 26 females,—giving an annual birth-rate of 22·5 per 1000. This is lower than last year.

During the early months of the year, along with the whole country, our water supply was greatly interfered with by the severe frost. For many weeks the village was almost destitute of water from the ordinary sources. In this predicament your vigorous and timely efforts to diminish the distress by conveying water to the doors of the inhabitants from other available sources is to be greatly commended. When the frost broke up it was found to have played sad havoc with the mains and service pipes. In view of this fact your determination to lay the new pipes deeper is a very wise proceeding. Your action in laying the new pipes, for which a loan was negotiated during last year, in sections, which can be cut off from one another, will also be a great boon to the bulk of the dwellers in our district. On this matter of water supply I am pleased to congratulate you on having all through adopted an attitude worthy of all commendation, this being one of the most vital and important aspects of sanitary work.

Progress has been made during the year towards the completion of outfall works for sewage treatment. The outfall sewer has been made, and land leased for treatment. It only remains for you now to construct suitable means for treating the outfall at your earliest possible opportunity, and I am convinced that you need no urging on this important matter. An inspection of the houses in the village in May last revealed the fact that the drains of 144 houses were not disconnected. Since that time in obedience to your orders over 100 of these have been remedied. There still remain a few which require attention. Owing chiefly to inefficient drainage three houses in Thornhill Street, on which I reported to you, were condemned as being unfit for habitation.

I have not been called upon specially to report to you on any nuisances during the year, and I presume therefore that any recommendations of your inspector have been acted upon without demur. The condition of yards and by-streets is very satisfactory, and in this respect contrasts very favourably with the surrounding districts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I may again offer you my congratulations on the satisfactory character of this report. I may also be allowed to advise you not to be weary in well-doing, and to prosecute with vigour and despatch the several various sanitary reforms you have in hand.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHAS. ED. HOLLINGS.

SHAFTESBURY HOUSE, CALVERLEY,  
FEBRUARY, 1896.